

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 JUSE-00 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6777

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, BDIS

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH EDREMODA: SPRIGGS/GUTHRIE, LOCKHEED
PAYOFFS AND SECRETARY/GARBA LUNCH

1. IN CONVERSATION AT HIS OFFICE WITH ME AND NIGERIA DESK OFFICER PATRICK, MEA AMERICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR DEREMODA EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM REGARDING POSSIBILITIES OF DEPORTATION FOR SPRIGGS AND GUTHRIE. HE SAID MEA WAS "BUSY WORKING OUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS." I REMINDED HIM THAT THE EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE TOOK NO POSITION ON THE LEGAL ISSUES IN THE CASE, WHICH WERE WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE NIGERIAN COURTS. HE SAID "WE DON'T VIEW YOUR MEMORANDUM AS A FORMAL NOTE ANYWAY BUT JUST A PIECE OF PAPER TO HELP US PREPARE OUR POSITION." I SAID OUR CONCERN REMAINED CENTERED ON THE HUMANITARIAN AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS OF LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCES. EDREMODA SAID HE SHARED OUR VIEW AND PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT DEPORTATION WOULD AVOID THE COMPLICATIONS FOR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT "THIS MINOR MATTER" MIGHT OTHERWISE PRODUCE.

2. EDREMODA REMINDED ME OF OBASANJO'S REQUEST FOR "MORE DETAIL" ON ALLEGED LOCKHEED PAYOFFS (LAGOS 10526). I WENT OVER THE SAME GROUND I HAD COVERED WITH HIM BEFORE, AND TOLD HIM I WOULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS I HAD RECEIVED THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY.

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3. EDREMODA ASKED WHETHER WE HAD FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED LUNCH IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND COMMISSIONER GARBA (LAGOS 9946). HE SAID GARBA'S PREFERENCES REMAINED OCTOBER 13 OR 14, BUT ANY DAY BETWEEN OCTOBER 7 AND 15 MIGHT BE FEASIBLE. I SAID I KNEW GARBA WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN ACTIVITIES NECESSITATED SOME DELAY IN FIRING UP THE LUNCHEON DATE.
EASUM

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